The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VI.—NO. 29. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 22, 1869.

LEGISLATIVE CORRUPTION.

FORD-LEADER LIBEL SUIT.

Grave Charges Against an Ex-Legislator.

The Hearing Before the Mayor Friday—Boundless Purpose to Establish the Truth of the Publication—Mr. Ford's Denial—Mr. Singerly Sets Private Matters Some Interesting Revelations.

The libel case of W. H. Ford, an ex-member of the Legislature from Beaver county, editor and publisher, and James Mills, editor of the *Sunday Leader*, came up for a hearing before Mayor Braun, Friday morning, at nine o'clock.

William C. Moreland, Esq., appeared for the prosecution, and S. Singerly, Esq., for the defendants.

[THE EVIDENCE TAKEN.]

Mr. Moreland read that in the libel and also the publication of the same in the *Leader*.

Commonwealth vs. John W. Pittock and Jas. Mills.

Sworn—Samuel Dickson, Esq., Jared W. Brock, Esq., being duly sworn, deposes and says: I am the editor of the *Pittsburgh Commercial*; I live in the city of Pittsburgh; county of Allegheny; the said James Mills resides in the city and county aforesaid; I am acquainted with the said James Mills; I have seen the publication, or a copy of the publication, now shown me, and which is marked with the letter A; I have read the same; I am familiar with the handwriting of the said James Mills; I believe the said publication, or copy of the publication, now shown me, and which is marked with the letter A, to be written, printed, published and circulated by the said James Mills; I am satisfied that the publication of the said libel was done maliciously, and for the purpose of injuring the character and reputation of the said William H. Ford, and exposing him to public hatred, contempt and ridicule.

Q. Were you present at the publication of the libel? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you write the libel? A. No, sir.

Q. Was anything ever published you, by Mills? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any communication ever made to you that you could publish? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any money ever paid you for publishing it? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any money ever offered you? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any one ever offered any money for you not to publish it? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any one ever offered a consideration to refrain from publishing it? A. No, sir.

Q. Was anything ever mentioned you, S. Dickson, in connection that it should be given for the publication? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any connection that it would be given for the non-publication? A. No, sir.

Q. Was there any money paid you for the publication? A. No, sir.

Q. Was there any money paid you for the non-publication? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any money paid you by W. H. Ford, or by the House committee on the subject-matter of the libel? A. No, sir.

Q. Was any money ever paid you by Mr. Armstrong? A. No, sir.

Q. In regard to your not having published the libel, was anything ever mentioned by Mr. Armstrong in connection with your not publishing it? A. No, sir.

Q. Was anything ever mentioned by Mr. Armstrong that he was a true and upright gentleman? A. Mr. Armstrong said he was a man of high standing

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, May 22, 1869.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1869.

DUTIES OF THE HOUR.

Shall it be defeat or victory? That is the question Republicans have to consider in connection with the discharge of their duty at the nominating conventions. We have to within three years, but defeat is also impending. A very small matter in the present state of the public mind, will turn the scale, in many of the counties, and give to the opposition substantial control of the State. One candidate for State offices may be more opportunistic men, but they will go down as a component of the Hostile factions engendered by improper local nominations, or especially of candidates for the Legislature. That this is evident, any one can see, who takes the time to investigate the temper of the people. He will find it in the mine on the banks of the Delaware; in the mountain valleys of the interior and in the western counties running from the Virginia line to Lake Erie. We will put the case this way. There appears to be no opposition to the nomination of Judge Woodward for that position on the Supreme bench he now adorns by his learning and integrity. Allegheny county, we will say, should contribute to his election seven thousand majority; but if the corrupt influences that are stirring for mastery in this county succeed in loading their selected representatives upon the party, the feeling of disgust will be so universal that Judge Woodward's majority may be cut down one half, and his election possibly defeated by pretended political friends, who deem the success of the corrupt agents of a clique paramount to the triumph of the principles and candidates of the party. People would, and have no objection to Judge Woodward, but they will remain away from the polls in disgust, or possibly go over to the opposition. We know this is plain talking, and we use it to enforce the duty of every Republican who wishes his party to succeed in the State this fall.

We find that this same view is taken of the approaching canvass by all the leading and influential journals of our party in the State. The Philadelphia *Inquirer* says: "the strength of the two parties in Philadelphia, and even throughout the State are so nearly balanced that the victory will rest absolutely *upon the character of the men selected*. The one that presents the names of those whose reputations in the community for intelligence and integrity are universally known and admitted, will be successful, while the one that presents us with candidates who have no other qualifications than those necessary to managing the affairs of a ward or precinct in their own interests, will certainly be defeated."

And again: "The people have grown tired of corruption, misrule, extravagance and party tricks. They demand honesty, intelligence, economy and men of character for the various positions in their gift, and they will compel a change in the present order of things if they nominate bad or indifferent candidates, they cannot expect to have the sympathy or the support of the press. *They must, in that event, provide for the defeat of their friends without its aid.* As for ourselves, we shall give our influence wherever it will best serve the interests of the whole people."

It will certainly be extraordinary if such warnings do not produce effects on the nominating Conventions of the most beneficial character, but if they do not—if the warning is neglected—it will only make still plainer the duty of every honest Republican and good citizen.

BEATING THE PARTY.

This is the feeble protest put forth by some people—politicians as a rule, with selfish ends to subserve—against the demand of the Republican press of the State, for radical and prompt reform of abuses which threaten the purity and life of the organization. Hurting the party is not the point at issue, but the safety and salvation of the party must certainly be. It is in this interest that the demand for reform is made, and the neglect to pay heed to it will result in disaster and demoralization. A political party banded together for selfish and interested purposes, must affiliate to the basis upon which it is organized or sink forever into public estimation. We can-not tolerate fraudulent measures or corrupt men. They who advise otherwise are more deadly enemies to the party than those leagued in open yet bitter opposition to it. We must cough off the corruptionists, or the weight of their sins will sink the noble ship.

This cry for reform in the Republican party does not come from the Democratic press. By no means. It is rather their desire that things should progress in the old groove. We venture to say that there is not a Democratic sentiment in the State to-day but bases his hopes of success, in good part, upon the prospect that the Republican Conventions in different counties will indorse the bitter officials who have brought the party into disrepute. It is for the safety of the Republican organization that the war against corruption is waged. Any other course would be suicidal. Suppose we should hoist our colors, and cry "amen" to all that the managing politicians propose—even to the extent of renominating every member of the last Legislature—would that put out of the day of reckoning? Not at all; it would only intensify the force of the popular whirlwind when it burst upon us. The people are earnest, determined and thoroughly united. We prove that their energies should be expended in reforming rather than destroying the Republican party. Rest assured the question must take this shape. If we cast off those who aspire to leadership on the immoral basis that every man has his price, and they must be the purchasers, if we repudiate those who sold ring politicians in robbing the State last winter, or who are now committed to plunder schemes to be hatched out next year, then the party will again rise in its integrity, its regeneration or grand and honest administration—not only of the theory of political reform and universal liberty, but of the practical application of those principles to the every day concerns of the people.

We regret, therefore, that the Republican press engaged in urging these measures of reform in political management, are filling the office of the wise physician who probes the wound to discover its dangers, and thus save the life of the patient. And in response to the intimation that the opposition press of the State does not seek to create dissensions in their party, by exposing the short comings of the corrupt Democratic leaders, we can do nothing better than quote the *State Guard* on this point: "We insist," says that journal, "on calling attention to the growing independence of the Republican press. Bold and honest as the truth is never suppressed in the columns of a Republican journal, unless it is controlled by men who are steeped in the corruptions from which our great organization has suffered so vitally. While it is very evident that the people will insist on good men being placed in nomination for all offices, the Republican press shows a determination to second the people on the subject of candidates for the Legislature. For instance, the Republican press of the State is already waking up to the importance of the subject, and is urging the choice of many of the old members." The Philadelphia papers are lastly taking the position that not a single one of last year's members shall be renominated.

Latest Received, of which we have telegraphic mention every few days, may sound strange to some when they reflect that the ruling Liberal party in England to-day is pledged to the establishment of religious freedom in Ireland by the disestablishment of the Irish Church. Common gratitude, they think, should put the Irish on their good behavior. But not so. Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church bill, and the speeches which he advocacy have occasioned in and out of Parliament, are at the bottom of the recent exhibitions of disaffection in the Island. The Irish people have been told by Messrs Gladstone, Bright and Bancroft Davis, Cabinet Ministers—to expect "full justice" and this they take to mean something more than Church disestablishment. In fact, there is no limit to the anticipations of the Radical Irish. They want the land, and keep their seeking till not property amount in the quietest way to get it. The country have declared to bring to trial any member of the land question, but the Irish demand that Mr. Bright's views on the subject shall be, at least, discussed by his colleagues on the government benches. This is not conceded, and the murmurs decline any expression of opinion at this time. It would seem to be probable that Mr. Bright will withdraw from the Government, as his will known advanced views embarrass his associates.

There is the age of proposed political reform in the United States. The still quiescence that precipitated the war, and was consequent upon it, are pretty much dying out. Abuses that seemed trifling when national disintegration was in the air, now grow in importance, and become the living issues of our national and state politics. The last files comes from the "New Democracy" league, and demands the abolition of the Senate, as a branch of our governments, state and federal. It then proposes to vest all legislative power in the House of Representatives, and that the executive power shall be placed in the hands of the Governor of the Executive. Or, in the words of the "New Democracy," "all acts of the National Legislature have null except those which may exclusively relate to the incomes and efficient transaction of its business shall be absolutely void until the same shall have been submitted to the citizens of the several States, and duly affirmed by a majority thereof." This is coming down and hulling up with a vengeance, and of course is very absurd, except in so far as it indicates a speculation of great evils, and a grappling about in the dark to find some means of suppressing them.

Canvassers for the Democratic Gubernatorial nomination multiply, but there is very little said about the Supreme Judgeship, because it will turn upon the election for the chief office. If the Governor comes from the West, the Supreme Judge will be selected from the East, and *vice versa*. Hon. Isaac E. Hiester, of Lancaster, is the last candidate announced for Governor. He was one of the four delegates at large to the New York Convention, and showed himself an adept in the art of How Not to Do It, in the matter of the nomination of Mr. Asa Packer to the Presidency. Mr. Hiester belongs to the "eminently respectable" wing of the Democracy, and was a delegate from the old Whig party a few years ago, when the general disruption took place. You have to dive down pretty deep in political geology to get at his exact status. The next thing we expect to hear is the name of the Honorable WILLIAM BIGLER, ex-Governor and ex-Senator, in connection with the nomination. When the work of resuscitating fossils commences, there is no telling where it will stop.

Mr. ROCKEY sailed from New York for Europe yesterday, accompanied by his Secretary of Legation, Colonel BARCLAY. The question of his instructions has afforded the correspondents unusual opportunities for skilful guessing. The general feeling is that the new Minister's sentiments accord in accordance with the recent speech of Senator SUMNER, and that this will constitute the policy of the Government. The settlement of the Alabama question will not be immediately pressed, unless the English Government should refuse to be taken to the advice of the leading London papers and initiate negotiations. A foreign war is one of the last things which President GRANT would desire, but, at the same time, the settlement of a question of the magnitude of the Alabama claims on any other than terms satisfactory and honorable to the United States as a nation, is one of the last things he would adopt or sanction. A firm, temperate policy will be pursued, and no undue haste at a solution of the question will be used while the present angry tone and feeling in England lasts. Masterly inactivity is the part of wisdom and expediency at this time.

The first through train from Sacramento reached Omaha on Monday evening last, with about five hundred passengers, but of course they were not all *through* passengers. We appreciate that even the managers of the Pacific Railroad have no adequate idea of the business that will soon crowd their trains, provided they are ready to do it promptly and on reasonable terms. There are many articles which are in the present through traffic of the road. One puts it at $100,000 per annum, and supports the figures by a plausible argument. Time, in 1869, the goods transported both ways, between San Francisco and the Atlantic ports, amounted to 300,000 tons, including 30,000 tons sent over the incomplete railroad. The passengers in 1867 amounted to over 75,000 persons, and the number, it is believed, will be trebled in 1870. On the supposition that the Pacific Railroad obtains 250,000 tons of freight, at $50 a ton, and 200,000 passengers at $100 each, the income will amount to over $100,000,000 dollars. In this calculation no account is taken of the way business.

Two elections now in progress in France for members of the *Corps Legislatif* create intense excitement throughout the Empire, but we see no reason to doubt that Louis Napoleon will be sustained in his appeal to the people. In Paris, the opponents of the imperial regime are in a large majority, and will carry all the Deputies, but in the provinces the name of NAPOLEON is still a tower of strength, and what it lacks in make up in the desire of the people for a firm and stable government, such as that they now enjoy. The French people outside of Paris have a natural dread of the ruin of the bankruptcy, and of the revolutionary and agrarian tendencies of the Parisians, and this is the main reason that NAPOLEON will be strong with them. The Legislature which closed its sessions a few weeks ago was the third of the Second Empire. The body is composed of 267 Deputies, who are elected for a term of five years by universal suffrage.

The following is going the rounds of the papers:

> Secretary Seward owns the Cable Company a bill of fifteen for foreign telegrams. A committee of the company is in Washington trying to get the money.

Advices received in London from the Cape of Good Hope announce the finding of another diamond much larger than any yet met with in the colony. The finder said it was a little smaller than 50 carats, and the finder parted with it to a diamond merchant for about seventy thousand dollars. The latest value put upon it is $75,000.

A "Senate Bloodite" walking a tight rope at Bolton, in England, fell away last, but the fall was broken partly by another rope, and partly by the crowd which caught her, and found, to their great disappointment, that she remained alive.

The Marquis of Bute has built a hospital for lepers at Jerusalem, in token of gratitude for his conversion.

The sale of tickets for the Boston musical festival commenced on Monday at the Ticket office, and their demand was so great that eight extra clerks, and all day there was a steady stream of purchasers. A considerable number of the 250 tickets have been disposed of, and the prospect is that this latter class of tickets will all be engaged at a season earlier than expected by the committee.

The New York *Herald* says the members of the last Pennsylvania Legislature "were unlike little children, for they had to be 'seen' in order to be heard."

The London *spectator* says that a movement for money is rapidly developing itself among the English masses, and strikes promise in time to completely overshadow any claims of nobility or birth.

Oliver Logan, in her speech at the Brooklyn women's meeting, said: "I expect the trousers with contempt and scorn. Men eat a sufficiently nauseous dose in their themselves. They have taken like their early vices, and are envious of our laws, jewelry, bills and dresses. 'Trousers, Scratch trousers!' Shake out the ridiculous garment at me. No, so long as we can have our silks, satins and shawls, we will not put on the absurd fashioned unchangeables. Look at your swallow tail coats, sheepskin hats, and you wear your hair so short, some of you, that you look ferocious like monkeys, and I don't wonder that one of your number has written a book showing that animal to be the father of his race." This speech was greeted with roars of laughter and applause.

Although there are no registered distilleries in the State, there are but thirteen in operation, and it is believed that some will suspend operations before long. The production of spirits from these distilleries is about 200,000 gallons monthly.

An office seeker presented himself to the Commissioner of Patents for the position of "Examiner of Patents," as he spelled it in his application. The Commissioner put him through the brief examination: "Are you a mechanic?" "No." "Ever investigate any particular branch of mechanical science?" "No." "Ever invent anything?" "No." "Then what in the name of common sense do you want of the position of Examiner of Patents, where a knowledge of mechanics or science necessary for this position of clerk of stuffing?" "No; but I think I could learn in a little while!"

A young and pretty girl, a little proud of her good looks, and fond of admiration, one day reproached her for caring more for her beauty than his love. To prove to him how much she loved him she broke off her fine front teeth, and then apologized, for she thought he would be pained at the sight of it; but he only laughed, and told her that it was all the better, for now she could not forget advice and well in this way for several days, and transported to any distance she pleased, and not a hair of her head would be sold in Pittsburgh or Cincinnati, as well as in New York or Baltimore.

The question of pardons for town scrip issued in nearly all Southern towns during the rebellion has received a final settlement at the hands of Chief Justice Chase. He decides that the authorities under which it was issued being a de facto government, the towns would have been liable for the redemption if it had been issued for ordinary purposes. But it was put out to aid the rebellion, and the authorities cannot therefore be enforced by the government it was designed to subvert. Judge Chase gave this decision in a case that came before him at Richmond on Monday last.

The Eighth Congressional District of New York, comprising the Eighteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first wards, in the consolidated area of Greater New York, contains 116,000 voters, and returned an income last year of $5,035,228, or $97,500 per week. This is undoubtedly the largest revenue returned by any citizens of the same district in the world. The average of the ang tax of $19,000 is. Forty-three persons in the district report incomes in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.

The trustees of the male department of the New York public schools, it is stated, have exclusively signed a circular, setting forth the inadequacy of the salaries paid to the principals and subordinate functionaries, and as the results advised long experience in the grading of work and the classification of pupils, the competency established in such department would be injurious to the discipline, and seriously detrimental to the welfare of the pupils.

Some prominent Bellefonteans are considering the propriety of giving Ex-Minister Buchanan a dinner on his return, which is looked for about the 4th of June. One of the principal objections to it is, that Mr. Johnson has had too many dinners already.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The first monthly established West of the Alleghany Mountains was that in Pittsburgh, by Joseph McClurg, Joseph Smith, and John Kennedy, 1786, on the ground now occupied by the Custom House.

Pittsburgh boasts the strongest lathe in the world. We have in this city a lathe that takes two tools, each measuring seven inches, making a fourteen inch cut. When occasion requires, two seven and a half inch tools are used, making a fifteen inch cut. The shavings cut by these tools, as they lie in front of the machine lathe, closely resemble a pile of black ringlets.

The bed-plate, bearings and rolls of a single three high train in this city weighs two hundred and fifty tons.

Pittsburgh malleable iron is in demand in the East as well as the West. Nearly fifty per cent. of all the product of a single concern in this city is sent to the East.

A rectangular steel saw measuring seventy-eight inches in diameter, will doubtless be regarded as an immense affair, even by mill men. An establishment engaged in the manufacture of steel saws in this city make anything from forty-eight to seventy-eight inch saws.

A single establishment in this city produces everything from a tack weighing a thousand to the pound, to the largest spokes in use. One machine makes thirty-six hundred shoe-heads per minute.

The largest concern in the United States engaged in the manufacture of steel springs, and dealing in Plumbers and Gas Fitters' material is located in this city. There may be establishments in the East that make more material for either branch of trade, but there is none that will compare with it in point of variety. Not in this city in either the extent or variety of the material. We supply the greater portion of the West with Plumbers and Gas Fitters' goods, but we have yet to learn that the Eastern trade are worked up annually by one concern in this city in the manufacture of cast-iron bowl-pipe and gas retorts alone.

The pin mills of this city, embracing a total of five hundred and ninety-five furnaces, work up one thousand tons of iron per day.

Pittsburgh makes fifty per cent. of all the iron bridges made in the country. A concern in this city, in building a bridge across the Susquehanna at Columbia, with two iron spans for cut-offs in case of fire, consumed nine hundred and ninety-four thousand pounds of iron in the shape of bolts alone, fifty-two tons of castings, three and a half million feet of pine and seven hundred thousand feet of oak! The bridge is six thousand six hundred feet, or nearly a mile and a quarter long.

PERSONAL.

Oliver Dalrymple, a few years ago a lawyer of small practice in Saint Paul, is said to be the largest wheat grower in the United States. He has this year 15,000 acres under his control, a crop, 2,000 acres of wheat, which, with a good yield, will give 300,000 bushels. Last year Mr. Dalrymple employed one hundred and men and one hundred horses in harvesting and threshing his crop.

At Indianapolis, on Tuesday last, a Mrs. Redmond, whose husband had procured a divorce from her on that day, took a large dose of laudanum, in order to destroy her life. A physician was called in haste, but before he arrived he managed to drown herself by leaping into the river. She was a woman of beauty by her late husband, who was watching her.

In Paris, the "Lady of Lyons" has been enacted in the American circle. An heiress from the West was married to a needy French prince, when the prince turned out beggar. The heiress was ready and the princely coat of arms was already painted on the carriages, when the bride discovered that the groom had now first sade. Another "caution" to ambitious young Americans who sell their daughters for European titles.

The Emperor and Empress of France are now presided to by Monsignore Bauer, an American by birth, but a convert to the Roman Catholic. He is a young looking man, with fussy and voluptuous features and a wild eye; he is said to be a man of great talent, and, in fact, has made a complete change of residence.

The Chillicothe, Ohio, *Register* says: "Last Monday two young married couples rode up to Lewis's saddlery store and purchased a saddle apiece, each bride and groom paying for their own saddle. The next day it would have passed unnoticed, but it would be remembered as one of the first things he would adopt or sanction. A firm, temperate policy will be pursued, and no undue haste at a solution of the question will be used while the present angry tone and feeling in England lasts. Masterly inactivity is the part of wisdom and expediency at this time.

The grand opera house in course of construction in Paris will cost $5,000,000 more than was originally estimated. It will seat 10,000 persons to make a genuinely startling carriage road, up which their Majesties will drive right under the Imperial pavilion.

The Free Trade League.

After a great deal of demanding the New York *Tribune* has got out of the officers of this society a list of the contributors to the Free Trade League—from the time of its inception—which fills a column and a half of the *Tribune*, and a half of the *Tribune*, and the committee says in announcing the list that it is not to be construed by a few men who are largely interested in foreign trade, and who anticipate, but we think mistakenly, suppose that the movement is intended to be organized in the interest of protection to home industry. Quite a considerable aggregate is returned as contributed by "each," which is not to be wondered at when the character of the society as we mentioned it. Men who give money for a cause of which they are justly proud are not apt to hide their names as carefully, and when a sum is reported by "each" as from Arthur, Jaffray & Co., Sanderson Bros. & Co., William Bayard & sons, and the Liverpool and London Insurance company, the not care to conceal them, as they would if they were ashamed of it, even though they happen to keep their shops exclusively on the other side of the Atlantic.

A WEEKLY writer in the New York *Times* from Washington some very sensible reflections on Impeachment—including that it would be well if coming indictments that may would give the Senate a day or two's respite—and Major Pond, of Boston, a young or old, cannot be named that a fault in a department at Washington. The salary is rarely more than is required for subsistence; the temptations to go astray are strong and the opportunities for so doing are in constant action in itself, and leads to nothing higher; the time after office hours hangs heavily on the clerk's hands, and after years of unprofitable service he is thrown upon the cold charities of the capital unfitted for anything else in life, but, despite the ungrateful, unremunerative, demoralizing nature of the clerk's official life, he is the most independent of mortals, and the civilities he renders in the discharge of the Government business, and the favors he asks and receives in return, are those of one man to another, and not of a servant to his master. The Government will have better clerks, and Washington will cease to present the unsolaced scramble for office that is witnessed there with every new administration, if it can only be well understood that the duties and obligations of a clerk is after all a hard and laborious one.

The Navy Department will do an unnecessary and unwise act if it changes the names given to our naval vessels by the late Secretary. It is possible that, in some instances, the Secretary made inappropriate selections, but Secretary Welles resulted in unnatural and unmeaning appellations, but many of the names were full of power and unmeaning nothing. What happier title than *Monongahela*? What more suggestive than *Susquehanna*? How terse in comparison with such names as *Louisville, Lake Erie, New Hampshire*, &c. In addition many of the ships have been known by their names so long and honor in the naval service, and to rename them would be to strip from the fine prestige of valor and triumph. What would have been thought of calling the ship that bore Commodore Perry's flag up at Trafalgar from the *Victory* to the *George the Third* or the *City of London*? Would the proposition have been entertained to change the name of the *Constitution* to *James Madison* or *Philadelphia*?

A new wrinkle in the fish propagations and fanciers. The other day at Oxford, in Holland, ninety-three lime plants, a large fish like a flounder, were thrown into a box of water four and a half feet square and five inches deep, at 7 o'clock A. M., at 1 o. m. fifteen live lobsters were added. At 5 o. m. they were taken to the exhibition, and the next day, without any addition of water, they were examined by the chief manager of the Zoological Gardens, and found perfectly healthy. They were kept so simply by putting air into the tank of water so fast as it was exhausted by the fish, and it is evident that they could be kept alive and well in this way for several days, and transported to any distance desired. The plan, it is said, will be sold in Pittsburgh or Cincinnati, as well as in New York or Baltimore.

The question of pardons for town scrip issued in nearly all Southern towns during the rebellion has received a final settlement at the hands of Chief Justice Chase. He decides that the authorities under which it was issued being a de facto government, the towns would have been liable for the redemption if it had been issued for ordinary purposes. But it was put out to aid the rebellion, and the authorities cannot therefore be enforced by the government it was designed to subvert. Judge Chase gave this decision in a case that came before him at Richmond on Monday last.

The Eighth Congressional District of New York, comprising the Eighteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first wards, in the consolidated area of Greater New York, contains 116,000 voters, and returned an income last year of $5,035,228, or $97,500 per week. This is undoubtedly the largest revenue returned by any citizens of the same district in the world. The average of the ang tax of $19,000 is. Forty-three persons in the district report incomes in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.

The trustees of the male department of the New York public schools, it is stated, have exclusively signed a circular, setting forth the inadequacy of the salaries paid to the principals and subordinate functionaries, and as the results advised long experience in the grading of work and the classification of pupils, the competency established in such department would be injurious to the discipline, and seriously detrimental to the welfare of the pupils.

Some prominent Bellefonteans are considering the propriety of giving Ex-Minister Buchanan a dinner on his return, which is looked for about the 4th of June. One of the principal objections to it is, that Mr. Johnson has had too many dinners already.

MANUFACTURING AND SHOP NOTES.

The first foundry established West of the Alleghany Mountains was that in Pittsburgh, by Joseph McClurg, Joseph Smith, and Isaac Kennedy, 1786, on the ground now occupied by the Custom House.

Pittsburgh boasts the strongest lathe in the world. We have in this city a lathe that takes two tools, each measuring seven inches, making a fourteen inch cut. When occasion requires, two seven and a half inch tools are used, making a fifteen inch cut. The shavings cut by these tools, as they lie in front of the machine lathe, closely resemble a pile of black ringlets.

The bed-plate, bearings and rolls of a single three high train in this city weighs two hundred and fifty tons.

Pittsburgh malleable iron is in demand in the East as well as the West. Nearly fifty per cent. of all the product of a single concern in this city is sent to the East.

A rectangular steel saw measuring seventy-eight inches in diameter, will doubtless be regarded as an immense affair, even by mill men. An establishment engaged in the manufacture of steel saws in this city make anything from forty-eight to seventy-eight inch saws.

A single establishment in this city produces everything from a tack weighing a thousand to the pound, to the largest spokes in use. One machine makes thirty-six hundred shoe-heads per minute.

The largest concern in the United States engaged in the manufacture of steel springs, and dealing in Plumbers and Gas Fitters' material is located in this city. There may be establishments in the East that make more material for either branch of trade, but there is none that will compare with it in point of variety. Not in this city in either the extent or variety of the material. We supply the greater portion of the West with Plumbers and Gas Fitters' goods, but we have yet to learn that the Eastern trade are worked up annually by one concern in this city in the manufacture of cast-iron bowl-pipe and gas retorts alone.

The pin mills of this city, embracing a total of five hundred and ninety-five furnaces, work up one thousand tons of iron per day.

Pittsburgh makes fifty per cent. of all the iron bridges made in the country. A concern in this city, in building a bridge across the Susquehanna at Columbia, with two iron spans for cut-offs in case of fire, consumed nine hundred and ninety-four thousand pounds of iron in the shape of bolts alone, fifty-two tons of castings, three and a half million feet of pine and seven hundred thousand feet of oak! The bridge is six thousand six hundred feet, or nearly a mile and a quarter long.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The Union of the Two Roads—The Ceremony of Laying the Last Rail.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
EX ROUTE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD,
PROMONTORY, UTAH TERRITORY, MONDAY MORNING, May 10, 1869.

Fortunately business matters called me for a week or more prior to the day set for the connecting of the rails of the two great railways, to the vicinity of the point where the two roads met, and I took advantage of the opportunity and was present at the ceremonies yesterday, the 10th. On Sunday evening, the 9th inst., I was at the new town of Corinne, situated in the valley of Great Salt Lake, about ten miles immediately north of Great Salt Lake, and twenty-five miles east of the junction of the two roads. It was doubtful when a train would pass westward, as every train would be pressed in to present at the union of the two roads next day; but it was believed that some time during the night trains would pass, including the officers train of the Vice President and others. News also was received that the car of the Vice President, Mr. Dorsal, had been surrounded at Bridgeport, Nebraska, by a large number of the laborers of the road, and that he was a prisoner in their hands; that they refused to let him out, or to leave his car moore until he had paid them what was due for their labor on the road. It seemed that the car was detained, and that he remained a prisoner for a long time, and until he either paid them or made satisfactory arrangements to do so, to the amount of $60,000, which was due to them for dollars.

When his car was first surrounded he was inclined to treat the matter as a joke, and remarked to them that he was pressed for time, and would take advantage of the opportunity and go in swimming, in which one of the crowd replied that he would do nothing of the kind until he had complied with their just demands, and that he would attempt to send from the car any message to get soldiers to his assistance that he would be dealt with very summarily. Finding that the matter was not a joke, after he had been a prisoner for a time, and I shall ever cherish towards you and, indeed, to all of the citizens of Harrisburg, the remembrance of your pleasing acquaintance and your constant kindness to me; for you ever treated me with respect. Aye, more, my fellow-citizens, when my enemies maligned, assailed and defamed me, you defended me. Great and prolonged cheering. I here return my thanks for this manly defense of yours. Indeed, can I, as looking over the years spent among you, ever forget this city?—this ground on which stands the Capitol of Pennsylvania? Never shall I forget this historic city where three hundred thousand men were organized, armed and equipped for war. [Cheers.] Can I ever forget the men of Harrisburg who buckled on their armor and went, and, in a case arising, certain constructions of the constitutional powers and rights of the General Government were assumed and acted on, which we considered oppressive and destructive of the rights of conservative minority represented in that highest judicature of the church. That was the occasion of my speech, which has been made the subject of such bitter reproach, and for which I have been maligned, misrepresented and abused. I am not here to speak proachfully, and charge the authorship of our Master has been wounded by its professed friends.

Brethren, these things ought not to be, and we propose, in the future, more formal and authoritative, and advanced in this direction, can be taken by a vote of the majority, and will be binding on parties to them. We do not say that our own people have been in every instance of ordinary care in the choice and tempers, with out blame as toward you. But it is true that the offenses against the law of love committed by those under our appointment; any aggressions upon just privileges and rights are properly represented to us, the representation will be respectfully considered, and we shall stand ready by the utmost legitimate authority and influence we have, to restrain and correct them.

These are our views, and we are sure that we represent the sentiment of our ministers and people. We have no authority to determine anything as to the propriety, practicability and methods of reunion of the churches represented by you and ourselves."

ENGLAND.

The Continued Criticisms by the London Press on Mr. Sumner's Alabama Speech.

The excitement over the new and startling phase of the Alabama question presented by Senator Sumner's speech, increases instead of diminishing, and the London journals, seem on the more disposed to lash themselves every day into a fury the more convinced they become of their inability to weaken by fair argument the unanswerable case made out on behalf of the American government and indorsed by all but unanimous vote of the United States Senate. No doubt the arguments of the English press improve with time. The London *Times* of May 3d produces its third criticism of the speech. The concession of ocean belligerency, argues the *Times*, cannot be held to have let loose the Alabama upon the navy of the United States, "for the best of all reasons—that the Alabama did not escape until April, 1862," while the Queen's proclamation conceding belligerency was issued in May, 1861. To this the correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from London May 3d, says:

"It was scarcely to be expected that the English Queen's proclamation sending out of private vessels from English ports would have been simultaneous events, but there is evidence in existence to show that the first steps towards the proclamation of belligerency were being taken immediately the reception of the news of the blockade of Charleston harbor was known. Great and prolonged cheering. I here return my thanks for this manly defense of yours. Indeed, can I, as looking over the years spent among you, ever forget this city?—this ground on which stands the Capitol of Pennsylvania? Never shall I forget this historic city where three hundred thousand men were organized, armed and equipped for war. [Cheers.] Can I ever forget the men of Harrisburg who buckled on their armor and went, and, in a case arising, certain constructions of the constitutional powers and rights of the General Government were assumed and acted on, which we considered oppressive and destructive of the rights of conservative minority represented in that highest judicature of the church. That was the occasion of my speech, which has been made the subject of such bitter reproach, and for which I have been maligned, misrepresented and abused. I am not here to speak proachfully, and charge the authorship of our Master has been wounded by its professed friends.

Brethren, these things ought not to be, and we propose, in the future, more formal and authoritative, and advanced in this direction, can be taken by a vote of the majority, and will be binding on parties to them. We do not say that our own people have been in every instance of ordinary care in the choice and tempers, with out blame as toward you. But it is true that such

Weekly Commercial.

NEWS SUMMARY

BY TELEGRAPH

Tennessee, May 21, 1869.

Schlesinger's prosthetic factory, Brooklyn, was destroyed on Tuesday by an explosion. Loss $100,000; insured.

George B. Davis, who perjured himself before the Credit Mobilier committee, in New York, Tuesday, while testifying that he never, until recently, had any interest in the concern, still owns one share of stock.

The steamship Sarmatian, from Hamburg, has arrived in New York.

A fellow, of the name of Cooper and of Collins, Indiana, committed suicide Tuesday morning, by hanging himself.

It is said Walter Brown contemplates visiting Europe, in connection with the formation of some new mercantile house in a larger and more promising field than the United States.

The Republican convention of Missouri is convened at Jefferson Hall, St. Louis, yesterday morning, I. W. Barrett, President of the convention, in the chair. A long speech of welcome was delivered by Col. B. Gratz Brown, as the Rev. Mr. Smith, and a very large audience, entitled "The Times," was read by Mr. Barrett, after which Mr. Brown, in a long speech, entitled "The Duties of the Hour," addressed the convention. He was followed by a brief speech, entitled "Reconstruction," by Mr. Bates, and the convention then took a recess for dinner.

The windows and doors of the Pension Office, at Washington City, were blown out and the entire morning by concussion of compressed air. The cause has not been ascertained.

The roofing in one part of Bridge St. Station, Brooklyn, was totally destroyed by the Tuesday night. It is supposed to have been struck by spontaneous combustion. Loss $5,000; insured for $3,000.

The Tennessee Republican State Convention meets at Nashville to-day, to nominate a candidate for Governor. The contest between Senter and Brownlow is very close, and will be quite spirited, with the chances in favor of Senter.

The steamer Hammonia, from Hamburg, arrived at New York yesterday.

A messenger of the Ipswich Bank, New York, yesterday morning placed in the hands of a messenger of the Corn Exchange Bank $25,000 to be delivered to the latter bank, there were two packages each containing $25,000 of which one was delivered to the wrong party.

The Government Commission have reported favorably upon Mr. Rollings's plan for bridging the Hudson.

Governor Geary ordered, the other day, the arrest of Mr. Hodge, and on his refusal to surrender, he was confined in the State jail, there were two writs of habeas corpus issued, one by Judge Strong of the Supreme Court, and the other by one of the lower courts.

The Government Commission have reported favorably upon Mr. Rollings's plan for bridging the Hudson.

Governor Geary ordered, the other day, the arrest of Mr. Hodge, and on his refusal to surrender, he was confined in the State jail, there were two writs of habeas corpus issued, one by Judge Strong of the Supreme Court, and the other by one of the lower courts.

Edward Richards, who arrived in New York from Glasgow, at the same time reported that he had passed perfect on the sale of $5,000 in government bonds and greenbacks.

The American Social Home Missionary Association met in the Bowdoin-square Baptist meeting in Boston yesterday, Rev. Dr. Sabin, of this city, presiding. The report of the Executive Board was read, showing the receipts of the year to be $10,000, and the expenditures $9,000, leaving a balance in the treasury of $1,000. The number of churches aided by the Association is 29, one third of whom are engaged at the South. After opening of the new contracting route from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic, the Association will establish an office in the northwest, along the line of the Pacific Railroad, on the Pacific coast, among the Chinese, and also among the Indians. Rev. Dr. Sabin, Rev. Dr. Hawes, and the report's preliminary resolutions, all of which were adopted, addressed the meeting on behalf of the Association.

The Baltimore Sun says: "The Democratic Executive Committee of Baltimore city, at a meeting held yesterday in the office of Mr. Thomas Swann, on Calvert street, appointed a committee of seven to confer with a committee of seven appointed by the Republican Executive Committee, in relation to the appointment of Commissioners of Election, in accordance with the provisions of the new registry law. The Democratic committee consists of Messrs. Thomas Swann, Wm. Pinkney Whyte, Wm. Keyser, Jr., Wm. Reynolds, Jr., Wm. Wilson, Jr., Wm. Gilmor, Jr., and Charles Gilpin. The Republican committee has not yet been announced, but it is understood that it will be composed of Messrs. Wm. Wilson, Jr., Wm. Reynolds, Jr., Wm. Keyser, Jr., Wm. Gilmor, Jr., Wm. Pinkney Whyte, Thomas Swann, and Charles Gilpin. The committee will meet this morning at 10 o'clock, at the office of Mr. Thomas Swann, on Calvert street, when it is expected that the appointments will be made."

The Democratic Union State Convention of Kentucky met at Louisville, Tuesday, and nominated Preston H. Leslie for Governor. The Democratic Convention of Kentucky met at Louisville, Tuesday, and nominated Preston H. Leslie for Governor. The Democratic Convention of Kentucky met at Louisville, Tuesday, and nominated Preston H. Leslie for Governor.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1869.

TERMS

A STATE CORRECTIONS BOARD.

It is a singular anomaly that the power of Prison reform should pass into the hands of those very persons who are the creatures of political machine by which they—the people—are eventually enslaved and relieved from the moral position of accepting as the right for one of believe. Yet this is practically the result that does from the skillful use of the corruption fund in Harrisburg, known as the unexpended balance in the State Treasury.

The case in which this sort of accumulation of money—ranging from one to five millions of dollars—is frequently put are well understood in political and business circles. It is the grand corruption fund of the State. In old Democratic pre-slavery times it was devoted by the dominant Democracy to buying off the party to the suppression of the Free Soil wing. With a change in administration at Harrisburg, we have had no correction of the evil practice. The "unexpended balance" is still the nucleus around which political intrigues are based, and is the motive power by which a few reckless and selfish leaders aggrandize themselves in position and power at the expense of the people.

No one denies that the "unexpended balance" is manipulated for political purposes—to advance the interests of rings and cheat the people in political conventions. We presume the system is carried to no greater extent at this time than it has been in the past, but such abuses grow in magnitude and power the longer they are permitted—the volume increases in force—and it would be surprising indeed if the hostile mass as to the efficacy of the "unexpended balance" in preserving schemes of political intrigue were not based on a very solid foundation in fact.

Let us suppose a case. The people of Pennsylvania to-day are in no humor on this question of political and legislative reform. There is a powerful sentiment in each party working to secure the nomination and election of honest men, as well as the annihilation of those corrupt combinations which have hitherto ruled our State politics. Whether this grand popular impulse will be successful time alone will determine. In a fair and open fight it will be victorious, for the people are honest and unselfish in politics, no matter how corrupt the managers may be. But among the odds against which the people have to struggle for deliverance, is the skillful use of the very funds—the "unexpended balance"—that have been wrung from the pockets of overburdened tax payers for the use of the State Government—to maintain the credit, support the charities, contribute to schools. This is what the money which we have paid the sovereign friends their accounts with the weapons by which they are constantly murdered.

We all know how it is done. It is a subject of each common report, and has been so for years, that an unlimited stewards, and system of corruption springing from the State Capital, and permeating every county of the State. The power of two three or five millions of dollars wielded by astute and unscrupulous men is more dangerous to a pure government than an army with banners. It is used to corrupt primary assemblages, and thereby becomes a most potent agency for evil, in moulding the integrity of representative government at the source. We do not say that the State will be defrauded of a cent, for custom, if not the law, sanctions the use of the "unexpended balance" by the State officer in whose custody it is placed, for speculative purposes. It is thus that the office in question, with a salary of only a few hundred dollars at most, has become the most lucrative political position in the State.

We say that the system is all wrong, and demand that the abuse shall be corrected. The people, and not the political officers, are entitled to the benefits that flow from the investment of so large a sum of their own money. It should go towards the reduction of the State debt, and the decrease of taxation. The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund have the power to use the "unexpended balance" in the purchase of the bonds of the State, and every cent of it should be invested in such purchases. Taxation, instead of being increased, should be reduced until the receipts into the State Treasury reach a sum only sufficient to meet the expenses of an honest and economical administration. The supine tenure the Legislature have to schemes of unjust expenditure and this is one of the strongest reasons why it should be applied to some purpose that will lighten the burdens of the people instead of increasing them. Rip up the State indebtedness with the "unexpended balance," instead of politicians and the political atmosphere will be visibly improved.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The Pacific Railroad must develope the whole western half of our continent, its mines, forests, fisheries, farms and manufactures, giving to them all a new and vigorous life. It must have an enormously increased commercial importance at San Francisco, but in a national point of view its greatest achievement will be to bring America in close contact with Asia, and especially increase our power and influence in China and Japan. It is in this light that a brief examination of the present condition of affairs in China will be of interest, for go where you will, you find Americans basing golden anticipations on China as a profitable and unfailing market.

The Chinese people constitute one-third of the human race, and are confined to an area about one-third the size of the United States. With these populations only life is a daily struggle for existence. All known exceptions are crowded out the question of the introduction of railroads and steamboats and the labor-saving machinery, as it would, at once, throw millions of people out of employment. This is the great trouble at the outset, and one that will have to be left for solution to the modifying influences of time and experience. Nor is it to be wondered at that the Chinese should oppose the introduction of labor-saving machinery, when we remember how bitterly these improvements were fought by the much greater laboring population of Europe. But still, various innovations have made considerable headway. Steamers have absorbed the carrying trade on some of the larger rivers, penetrating the heart of the empire, while the coasting trade is fast passing from the clumsy junks to fast sailing vessels and steamers. In all these enterprises Chinese capitalists are largely interested, but the mass of the people are slow to catch the spirit of improvement, and watch its development with suspicion and distrust.

This jealousy with which the Chinese would naturally regard the innovations of foreigners will be averted to a great extent by the policy of the three powers most interested—the United States, France and England—by which they are bound to strengthen the Central Government of China so far as it can be done by economical and moral means. As a first step in this direction the three co-operating powers have guaranteed the integrity of the empire, by agreeing neither to demand nor accept concessions of Chinese territory. To strengthen China within, and to make her independent of alliances which might result in the loss of territory, the ministers agreed to encourage a reorganization of the army, and to assist her in adopting European discipline and arms, and to furnish the officers necessary to introduce these reforms. The next most important step in the advancement of China, brought about by the influence of the ministers of the three powers, was the introduction of an honest and efficient administration of the customs service as a means of securing the revenue necessary to centralized strength. The plan of procedure in collecting the revenue is one which we might copy with profit in the United States. It is time decrease in a late article in the *Nation*:

> The Chinese are not wealthy, but they are not poor. Their country is not overpopulated, but it is well peopled. Their government is not corrupt, but it is economical. Their people are not ignorant, but they are industrious. Their civilization is not high, but it is respectable. Their institutions are not free, but they are not oppressive. Their religion is not pure, but it is not debasing. Their social life is not refined, but it is not barbarous. Their literature is not profound, but it is not trivial. Their arts are not progressive, but they are not retrograde. Their manners are not polished, but they are not rude. Their habits are not cleanly, but they are not filthy. Their dress is not graceful, but it is not indecent. Their houses are not handsome, but they are not squalid. Their food is not delicious, but it is not disgusting. Their amusements are not intellectual, but they are not brutal. Their vices are not few, but they are not gross. Their virtues are not many, but they are not nothing. Their faults are not small, but they are not great. Their defects are not trifling, but they are not fatal. Their merits are not solid, but they are not superficial. Their character is not elevated, but it is not low. Their condition is not enviable, but it is not miserable. Their prospects are not bright, but they are not hopeless.

But beyond the working of its own machinery, the same authority informs us the Chinese Government can afford no reform by force, the interest and the people favor the balance of power. The course of events in China during the past few years show that when it is necessary China can produce rulers equal to great emergencies, and the Government is fully aware of the necessity of placing the country on an equal footing with the western powers, but they also recognize the difficulties to be encountered in spreading western improvements among populations so vast. The conclusion is inevitable that the spirit of progress, improvement and development must be of popular growth, and cannot be created by decree. One of the most potent influences for the advancement of China will be found in the vast emigration of Chinese to the United States, and their return home, carrying with them new ideas and customs. This emigration will be increased in a remarkable manner by the commercial revolution consequent on the completion of the Pacific Railroad, and it is in this way that this great enterprise will have a marked influence in the destiny of the Empire.

THE FIRST STEP.

The delegate system, to which we still adhere in making nominations for the county offices—although the Republicans of Pittsburgh and Allegheny have wisely adopted the plan of voting directly for candidates for the city offices—will be less liable to abuse this year than formerly, because of the number of tickets to be voted for. The very ducked sentiment in favor of legislative reform should find a full and free expression at the primary meetings, and the delegates chosen should either be men of unquestioned judgment and probity, or should be sent to the Convention under instructions.

We believe it possible for the Republicans of the county, and especially those of the rural districts, to obtain an honest expression of the choice of the majority, in regard to all the candidates now before the people, and compel their delegates to support those candidates in the conventions. This can be done by simply placing in nomination all the candidates seeking office, at the same time the delegates are nominated, and vote for a ticket that when the delegates are voted for. When the polls are closed, the result can be announced, and the delegates instructed to support those candidates for the several offices who received the highest votes, so long as they may be before the convention. Some one asks: "Is this practicable?" In reply we can state that the plan has been pursued in Fenton township for ten years past, and with the most satisfactory results. In every election the voters of this district express their preference for the several candidates, and the delegates are required to carry out the wishes of the majority. In but one instance, in the whole ten years, did the delegates disobey their instructions, and it is a fact strongly illustrative of the shrewdness of the delegate system, that the treachery of this delegation turned the choice for one of the most important offices in the county. This method is not only simple, but any election or meeting in expression of the popular sentiment. It is a combination of the "elected County" with the "delegate" system, and there is no reason why it should not be adopted in all the districts.

There never was a time in the history of the Republican party of Allegheny county, when the necessity was so apparent for observing the standard of the nominees, and especially of those who are to represent us in the Legislature. The people are in no temper to be trifled with, and if the Convention does not do its duty well and faithfully by making nominations worthy of the support of the entire party, the ticket will be left to the hazard of defeat.

We would have much more confidence in any of the committees could be relied on to secure a fair expression of the will of the people in their expressed and faithfully observed. We have indicated a method by which these humble ends can be attained, and we hope that at least some of the delegates will try the experiment. There is no reason why it should not work as well in every other township as it does in Fenton, where it has been so thoroughly tested. Its general application would ultimately place our nominations in the hands of the majority of the voters at the primary elections, and in that case corrupt, incompetent or dishonest candidates would never find a place upon the ticket.

A SPECIAL AGENT.

We have already discussed many of the evils which characterize the doings of our State Legislature, yet many more remain untouched. One of the most prominent is that of special legislation, which is in most instances the result of corrupt agreements. It is brought about by practically dividing the Legislature into committees, and then the legislature will be allowed as many bodies as there are committees in the State, and persuading the members from each county to attend the committee whether or not their respective counties shall have the special legislation they may ask for. A measure is introduced, [illegible] and [illegible] the appointment was made [illegible] case, when the passenger of the bill obtained [illegible] had been confirmed in, and circulars [illegible] have issued, as the result of densely corrupt agreements. Will decisions be brought to bear upon [illegible] to some extent, how he has been imposed upon, the President we are assured, by a gentleman who spent an evening recently at the White House, has fully determined to apply the gratifying process. The authority says:

> The President has made known whether he wants to be nominated for a second term. He has not said a word about it to any one. He has not authorized any friend to say anything about it. He has not given any intimation of his wishes to any one. He has not written a letter on the subject. He has not even talked with his Cabinet officers about it. He has not said whether he would or would not accept a renomination. He has not said whether he would or would not decline a renomination. He has not said whether he would or would not run for a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not be a candidate for a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not serve a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not take a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not have a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not be President for a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not be President for a second term. He has not said whether he would or would not be President for